

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 361

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to transportation network companies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The heading to Subtitle F, Title 7, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBTITLE F. COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES AND PERSONAL VEHICLES USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

SECTION 2. Subtitle F, Title 7, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 649 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 649. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 649.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Digital network" means any online-enabled application, website, or system offered or used by a transportation network company that enables the prearrangement of rides between passengers and drivers.

(2) "Digitally prearranged ride" means a ride in a personal vehicle between points chosen by the passenger that is prearranged through a digital network.

(3) "Personal vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(A) is owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by a driver; and

(B) is not a taxicab, limousine, or other vehicle regulated by a municipality under Section 215.004, Local Government

1 Code, or a joint airport board under Section 22.081, Transportation
2 Code.

3 (4) "Transportation network company" means a
4 corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other entity
5 that, for compensation, enables a passenger to prearrange with a
6 driver, exclusively through the entity's digital network, a
7 digitally prearranged ride. The term does not include an entity
8 that provides:

9 (A) in addition to digitally prearranged rides:

10 (i) street-hail taxicab services; or

11 (ii) limousine or other car services
12 arranged by a method other than through a digital network;

13 (B) shared expense carpool or vanpool
14 arrangements; or

15 (C) a type of ride service for which:

16 (i) the fee received by the driver does not
17 exceed the driver's costs of providing the ride; or

18 (ii) the driver receives a fee that exceeds
19 the driver's costs associated with providing the ride but makes not
20 more than three round-trips per day between the driver's or
21 passenger's place of employment and the driver's or passenger's
22 home.

23 Sec. 649.002. NATURE OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES,
24 DRIVERS, AND VEHICLES. Transportation network companies and
25 drivers logged in to the company's digital network are not common
26 carriers, contract carriers, or motor carriers.

27 Sec. 649.003. CONTROLLING AUTHORITY. (a) Notwithstanding

1 any other provision of law, and except as provided by Subsection
2 (b), the regulation of transportation network companies, drivers
3 logged in to a digital network, and vehicles used to provide
4 digitally prearranged rides:

5 (1) is an exclusive power and function of this state;
6 and

7 (2) may not be regulated by a municipality, state
8 agency, or other state or local entity, including by:

9 (A) imposing a tax;

10 (B) requiring a license;

11 (C) setting rates;

12 (D) imposing operational requirements; or

13 (E) imposing other requirements.

14 (b) An airport owner or operator may impose a reasonable fee
15 on a transportation network company that provides digitally
16 prearranged rides to or from the airport.

17 Sec. 649.004. PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO DRIVERS LOGGED IN TO
18 DIGITAL NETWORK. A provision of this chapter that applies to a
19 driver logged in to a digital network applies while the driver is
20 logged in to receive requests for digitally prearranged rides and
21 while the driver is logged in and providing a digitally prearranged
22 ride.

23 SUBCHAPTER B. OPERATION OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES

24 Sec. 649.051. INSURANCE REQUIRED. The requirements of
25 Chapter 1954, Insurance Code, apply to transportation network
26 companies and drivers logged in to a digital network.

27 Sec. 649.052. SHARED RIDES. A digitally prearranged ride

1 may be wholly or partly shared by multiple passengers if the
2 passengers consent to sharing the ride.

3 Sec. 649.053. FARES. A transportation network company that
4 charges a fare for a digitally prearranged ride shall:

5 (1) disclose to passengers the fare calculation method
6 on the digital network; and

7 (2) before the passenger enters the vehicle for the
8 ride, provide through the digital network to the passenger
9 requesting the ride:

10 (A) the applicable rates being charged; and

11 (B) the option to receive an estimated fare.

12 Sec. 649.054. DIGITAL NETWORK IDENTIFICATION OF DRIVERS AND
13 VEHICLES TO PASSENGERS. A transportation network company shall,
14 before a passenger enters a vehicle for a digitally prearranged
15 ride, provide through the company's digital network to the
16 passenger requesting the ride:

17 (1) the driver's first name and picture; and

18 (2) the make, model, and license plate number of the
19 driver's vehicle.

20 Sec. 649.055. PAYMENT; ELECTRONIC RECEIPT. (a) A driver
21 providing a digitally prearranged ride shall accept payment for the
22 ride only through the digital network.

23 (b) Within a reasonable time following the completion of a
24 digitally prearranged ride, the transportation network company
25 whose digital network was used to prearrange the ride shall
26 transmit, through electronic mail or text message, a receipt to the
27 passenger who requested the ride that includes:

- (1) the origin and destination of the ride;
- (2) the total time and distance of the ride; and
- (3) an itemization of the total fare paid, if any.

Sec. 649.056. INTOXICATING SUBSTANCE POLICY. (a) A transportation network company shall implement an intoxicating substance policy that prohibits a driver who is logged in to the company's digital network from any amount of intoxication.

(b) A transportation network company shall include on its Internet website:

- (1) a notice concerning the company's intoxicating substance policy; and
- (2) the means to make a complaint about a suspected violation of the policy.

(c) On receipt of a passenger complaint alleging a violation of the intoxicating substance policy, a transportation network company shall:

- (1) conduct an investigation into the reported incident; and
- (2) immediately suspend the driver's access to the company's digital network for the duration of the investigation.

(d) A transportation network company shall maintain records relevant to a complaint for a period of at least two years after the date the complaint is received.

Sec. 649.057. DRIVER REQUIREMENTS. (a) Before permitting an individual to log in as a driver on the company's digital network, a transportation network company must:

- (1) confirm that the individual:

1 (A) is at least 19 years of age;
2 (B) maintains a valid driver's license; and
3 (C) possesses proof of registration and
4 automobile financial responsibility for each motor vehicle to be
5 used to provide digitally prearranged rides;

6 (2) conduct, or cause to be conducted, a local, state,
7 and national criminal background check for the individual that
8 includes the use of:

9 (A) a commercial multistate and
10 multijurisdiction criminal records locator or other similar
11 commercial nationwide database; and

12 (B) the national sex offender registry database
13 maintained by the United States Department of Justice or a
14 successor agency; and

15 (3) obtain and review the individual's driving record.

16 (b) A transportation network company shall not permit an
17 individual to log in as a driver on the company's digital network if
18 the individual:

19 (1) has been convicted in the three-year period
20 preceding the issue date of the driving record obtained under
21 Subsection (a)(3) of:

22 (A) more than three offenses classified by the
23 Department of Public Safety as moving violations; or

24 (B) one or more of the following offenses:

25 (i) fleeing or attempting to elude a police
26 officer under Section [545.421](#);

27 (ii) reckless driving under Section

1 545.401;

2 (iii) driving without a valid driver's
3 license under Section 521.025; or

4 (iv) driving with an invalid driver's
5 license under Section 521.457;

6 (2) has been convicted in the preceding seven-year
7 period of any of the following:

8 (A) driving while intoxicated under Section
9 49.04 or 49.045, Penal Code;

10 (B) use of a motor vehicle to commit a felony;

11 (C) a crime involving felony property damage;

12 (D) felony fraud;

13 (E) felony theft;

14 (F) an act of violence; or

15 (G) an act of terrorism; or

16 (3) is found to be in the national sex offender
17 registry database maintained by the United States Department of
18 Justice or a successor agency.

19 Sec. 649.058. DIGITALLY PREARRANGED RIDES ONLY. A driver
20 who is logged in to a digital network shall not solicit or provide a
21 ride for compensation unless the passenger has been matched to the
22 driver through the digital network.

23 Sec. 649.059. PAYMENT ONLY THROUGH DIGITAL NETWORK. A
24 driver may receive payment for a digitally prearranged ride only
25 through the digital network and shall not solicit or accept cash
26 payments from a passenger.

27 Sec. 649.060. PASSENGER ACTING IN UNLAWFUL, DISORDERLY, OR

1 ENDANGERING MANNER. A driver who has accepted a digitally
2 prearranged ride may refuse to transport a passenger acting in an
3 unlawful, disorderly, or endangering manner.

4 Sec. 649.061. DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
5 OFFICER. (a) In this section, "digital identification" means
6 information stored on a digital network that may be accessed by a
7 driver and that:

- 8 (1) serves as proof of the identity of the driver;
9 (2) serves as proof that the insurance coverage
10 requirements of Chapter 1954, Insurance Code, are satisfied;
11 (3) displays a photo of the driver;
12 (4) displays an image of the driver's vehicle; and
13 (5) identifies the make, model, and license plate
14 number of the vehicle used by the driver.

15 (b) On request of a law enforcement officer, a driver
16 providing a digitally prearranged ride shall:

- 17 (1) display the driver's digital identification; and
18 (2) display electronic proof that the ride was matched
19 through the digital network.

20 (c) This section does not require a driver to relinquish
21 possession of the electronic device containing the digital
22 identification.

23 Sec. 649.062. VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS. (a) A transportation
24 network company shall, for each motor vehicle used by a driver to
25 provide digitally prearranged rides through the company's digital
26 network:

- 27 (1) require the vehicle to meet the requirements of

1 Chapter 548; and

2 (2) confirm that the vehicle has:

3 (A) four doors; and

4 (B) a maximum passenger capacity of not more than
5 eight people, including the driver.

6 (b) A vehicle used to provide digitally prearranged rides:

7 (1) may be owned, leased, or rented by the driver; and

8 (2) may not also be used to provide street-hail
9 taxicab service, limousine service, or other similar for-hire
10 service regulated by a municipality under Section 215.004, Local
11 Government Code, or a joint airport board under Section 22.081,
12 Transportation Code.

13 Sec. 649.063. NONDISCRIMINATION; ACCESSIBILITY. (a) A
14 transportation network company shall adopt a policy that prohibits
15 a driver logged in to the company's digital network from:

16 (1) discriminating on the basis of a passenger's or
17 potential passenger's location or destination, race, color,
18 national origin, religious belief or affiliation, sex, disability,
19 or age; and

20 (2) refusing to provide service to a potential
21 passenger with a service animal unless the driver has a medically
22 documented condition that prevents the driver from transporting
23 animals.

24 (b) A transportation network company shall notify each
25 person authorized to log in as a driver on the company's digital
26 network of the nondiscrimination policy. A driver logged in to the
27 company's digital network shall comply with the nondiscrimination

1 policy.

2 (c) A transportation network company shall not impose an
3 additional charge for transportation of individuals with physical
4 disabilities because of those disabilities.

5 (d) A transportation network company shall provide a
6 passenger an opportunity to indicate whether the passenger requires
7 a wheelchair-accessible vehicle. If a wheelchair-accessible
8 vehicle cannot be provided, the company shall direct the requesting
9 passenger to an alternate provider of wheelchair-accessible
10 service, if available.

11 Sec. 649.064. DRIVERS AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS. A driver
12 who is authorized to log in to a transportation network company's
13 digital network is considered an independent contractor, and not an
14 employee of the company, if:

15 (1) the company does not:

16 (A) prescribe the specific hours during which the
17 driver is required to be logged in to the company's digital network;

18 (B) impose restrictions on the driver's ability
19 to use other transportation network companies' digital networks;

20 (C) limit the territory within which the driver
21 may provide digitally prearranged rides; or

22 (D) restrict the driver from engaging in another
23 occupation or business; and

24 (2) the company and the driver agree in writing that
25 the driver is an independent contractor.

26 Sec. 649.065. FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Section 547.607 does not
27 apply to a vehicle used to provide digitally prearranged rides.

1 SUBCHAPTER C. RECORDS AND OTHER INFORMATION

2 Sec. 649.101. RETENTION OF RECORDS. A transportation
3 network company shall maintain:

4 (1) records evidencing compliance with the
5 requirements of this chapter for a period of two years;

6 (2) individual ride records for at least one year
7 after the date the ride was provided; and

8 (3) driver records for at least one year after the date
9 the driver ceases to be authorized to log in as a driver on the
10 company's digital network.

11 Sec. 649.102. COLLECTION, USE, OR DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS AND
12 OTHER COMPANY INFORMATION. (a) Any records, data, or other
13 information disclosed to a public entity in this state by a
14 transportation network company, including names, addresses, and
15 any other personally identifiable information of drivers is not
16 subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

17 (b) A public entity may not disclose any records, data, or
18 other information provided by a transportation network company
19 under this chapter to a third party except in compliance with a
20 court order or subpoena. If information provided under this
21 chapter is sought through a court order or subpoena, the public
22 entity shall promptly notify the transportation network company to
23 afford the company the opportunity to take actions to prevent
24 disclosure.

25 (c) In collecting, using, or disclosing any records, data,
26 or other information submitted by a transportation network company
27 under this chapter, a public entity shall:

1 (1) consider the potential risks to the privacy of the
2 individuals whose information is being collected, used, or
3 disclosed;

4 (2) ensure that the information to be collected, used,
5 or disclosed is necessary, relevant, and appropriate to the proper
6 administration of this chapter; and

7 (3) take all reasonable measures and make all
8 reasonable efforts to protect, secure, and, where appropriate,
9 encrypt or limit access to the information.

10 (d) A transportation network company required to submit,
11 disclose, or otherwise provide personally identifiable information
12 of drivers to a public entity of this state is not liable in any
13 civil or criminal action for any unauthorized disclosure, misuse,
14 alteration, destruction, access or acquisition, or use of the
15 information that occurs while the information is in the possession
16 of any public entity of this state.

17 Sec. 649.103. DISCLOSURE OF PASSENGER INFORMATION. (a) A
18 transportation network company may disclose a passenger's personal
19 identifying information to a third party only if:

20 (1) the passenger consents;

21 (2) the disclosure is required by a legal obligation;

22 or

23 (3) the disclosure is required to:

24 (A) protect or defend the terms of use of the
25 transportation network company service; or

26 (B) investigate a violation of those terms.

27 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a transportation

1 network company may share a passenger's name with a driver
2 accessing the company's digital network to facilitate:

- 3 (1) identification of the passenger by the driver; or
4 (2) communication between the passenger and the
5 driver.

6 SECTION 3. On the effective date of this Act, any
7 municipality's or other local entity's ordinance or policy related
8 to transportation network companies or drivers authorized to access
9 transportation network companies' digital networks that
10 contradicts or is otherwise inconsistent with this Act is void and
11 has no effect.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.